

House Bill 78

By: Representatives Williams of the 89th, Brooks of the 63rd, Watson of the 91st, Mosby of the 90th, Mitchell of the 88th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

To amend Chapter 8 of Title 4 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to dogs, so as to define a certain term; to provide that no person shall import, sell, transport, carry, own, keep, or otherwise possess any live pit bull dog in this state; to provide for exceptions; to provide that certain dogs shall be neutered and confined; to provide a penalty; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Chapter 8 of Title 4 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to dogs, is amended by inserting at the end thereof the following:

"4-8-31.

(a) As used in this Code section, the term 'pit bull' means any dog that is an American Pit Bull Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier, Staffordshire Bull Terrier, or any dog displaying the majority of physical traits of any one or more of the above breeds, or any dog exhibiting those distinguishing characteristics which substantially conform to the standards established by the American Kennel Club or United Kennel Club for any of the above breeds.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any person to import, sell, transport, carry, own, keep, or otherwise possess any live pit bull within the state; provided, however, that the provisions of this subsection shall not apply to the following:

(1) Any person who import transports, carries, owns, keeps, or otherwise possesses any pit bull for bona fide zoological, educational, medical, or scientific purposes;

(2) Any person who is not a resident of the state transporting a pit bull through the state for a period of less than one day; or

(3) As to a specific animal, any resident of the state who, on July 1, 2005, had maintained such pit bull in the state for at least six months. To be so exempt, each such animal shall be neutered, shall be maintained in a secure area designed to prevent the

1 animal from coming into contact with the public, and shall be fully leashed and muzzled
2 and accompanied by an adult when not so confined.

3 (c) Any person found guilty of violating any provision of this Code section shall be
4 guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be fined not less than \$1,000.00 nor more than
5 \$5,000.00 or incarcerated for a period not to exceed six months, or both. Each day that
6 a violation continues shall constitute a separate and distinct offense."

7 **SECTION 2.**

8 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.